

REMARKS

Claims 49, 73, and 74 have been canceled. The claims remaining in the application are 1-9, 11-27, 29-48, 50-72, and 75.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 49, 51, 54, 55, 57, 59, 73, and 74 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mihara (U.S. 6,517,211). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 49, 73, and 74 have been canceled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 50, 53, and 60 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mihara (U.S. 6,517,211) in view of Cipolla et al. (U.S. 6,247,816). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 50, 53, and 60 have been amended to depend from newly amended claim 56, which is allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 52 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mihara (U.S. 6,517,211) in view of Cipolla et al. (U.S. 6,247,816) and further in view of Mukawa et al. (U.S. 6,561,654). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 52 and 58 have been amended to depend from newly amended claim 56, which is allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-9, 11-27, 29-48, 61-72, and 75.

The Examiner has objected to claim 56 but will allow the claim if it is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

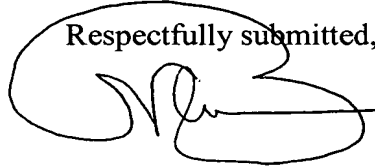
CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Examiner discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, she is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. A. Blish', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 29,134

Nelson A. Blish/tmp
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-588-2720
Facsimile: 585-477-4646